

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 9

Date 2/11/04

Bill No. SJ 18

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Hello, my name is Hannah Ticknor. I am 17 year old, and I am here to ask you to table SJ18.

Please do not pass yet another state symbol. Government should be reserved to deal with that which is important to preserving freedoms and increasing the quality of life for it's citizens. A state dog is unnecessary.

I understand that this bill is an effort to involve students in the legislative process, but there are so many ways to learn about government that do not create additional legislation. If we are looking for ways to educate classes in government processes, then maybe the students could hold mock legislative sessions in their own schools, electing representative and senators from each class and then proposing and voting on bills for their own school - maybe they could have Teen Pact participants volunteer to help organize it and teach about the process. Also, with approximately 2,000 bill proposals each session and the ease which information is found on the internet, a teacher could easily find an already proposed bill that the students could become involved in, without adding additional legislation.

We are facing a budget shortage in Montana, and we should be looking for ways to cut cost and save limited tax dollars for needed programs. It is estimated that it costs between 2 and 3 thousand dollars to bring a proposal to committee. For someone working at minimum wage, this is 362 hours, or over 9 - 40 hour work weeks, just to earn this amount. This bill will also create extra work for the Secretary of State's office who will be asked to assist the students in voting to designate the official state dog.

Please only consider legislation that is necessary to the well-being of Montanans. Please vote to table SJ18.

Thank you for your time.

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